



State of Washington

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

*South Central Region – Ellensburg District Office, 201 North Pearl, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
Phone: (509) 925-1013, Fax (509) 925-4702*

September 22, 2011

Catherine Reed  
Washington Dept. of Ecology  
Central Regional Office  
15W Yakima Ave. Ste 200  
Yakima, Wa 98902-3452

Subject: Manastash Creek Flood Damage Repair at Snyder, Whitfield, Yukert and Clark  
Properties – SEPA Review Comments

Dear Ms Reed:

Thank you for reviewing the Manastash Creek Flood Damage Repair Project at the Snyder, Whitfield, Yukert and Clark Properties and for the information regarding shoreline issues and the Upper Yakima River Basin Suspended Sediment, Turbidity and Organochlorine Pesticide TMDL.

The proposed work will be conditioned so as to ensure that construction of this project does not compromise water quality and the objectives of the TMDL implementation plan. The HPA will include provisions requiring erosion control, isolation of the work area from the flowing water of Manastash Creek, management and disposal of waste water, and revegetation of disturbed shoreline areas. Please also note that it is the intent is to start work as soon as possible while Manastash Creek is substantially de-watered by irrigation diversions and flow is sub-surface for over a mile before reaching the Yakima River.

We recognize Ecology's concerns that most of the flood damage that occurred to these properties is a result of inadequate bridge capacity for flood flows and the passage of flood-related bedload and debris. Although the structures are repairable, it is inevitable that they will again cause channel aggradation and bank erosion during large floods, and may fail from scour at abutments. We will provide the property owners with recommendations and guidance regarding ways to improve conveyance of the existing structures or extend or replace the spans to better pass flood flows. Any assistance that Ecology can provide would be appreciated. For the immediate needs, however, repair of the facilities is the only practical alternative to providing access to the homes before the onset of winter.

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Successfully resolving the problems in the Manastash Creek Watershed will require detailed reach assessments and a comprehensive watershed plan. It is my hope that we can work with the residents, agencies and the Yakama Nation to develop these tools in the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light yellow background. The signature is stylized, starting with a large 'B' and 'R' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers off to the right.

Brent D. Renfrow  
District Habitat Biologist

Cc: Bob Zeigler, WDFW SEPA Coordinator  
Perry Harvester, WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager